



Elizabeth Coggs-Jones

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Chairman

Health and Human Needs

Combined Community Services
Board

Vision for Vliet Task Force

Milwaukee County Committees

Finance and Audit

Personnel

Memberships

National Associations of
Counties (NACo)

National Organization of Black
County Officials

Milwaukee County Friends of
Africa, Inc.

Community Involvement

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Back-to-School Festival Board,
Founder

Holy Redeemer Institutional
Church of God in Christ,
Member



SECOND EDITION

April 5, 2006

Dear Friend,

So many times people suffer from lack of factual information and knowledge. One of the many goals of doing the "ECJ ENews-10" is to provide you meaningful information in a more timely fashion. So welcome aboard, please pass this on to others. Thank you for allowing me to be your public servant in County Government.

Faith, Hope and Harmony,

WHAT IS THE COMBINED COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD?

As Chairwoman of the Milwaukee County Combined Community Services Board (CCSB) I feel many people do not know the role of CCSB. Milwaukee County Combined Community Services Board subcontract millions of dollars county-wide in the areas of behavioral health, developmental and physical disabilities, and alcohol and drug disabilities. This citizen driven board is appointed by the County Executive.



Vice Chair John Doherty,
Board Members Rev. Louis Sibley and Ms. Cathy Simpson
working at a CCSB meeting

I was appointed Chairwoman in 2000 by County Executive F. Thomas Ament. I have the pleasure of working with Vice-Chairman John Doherty, Lolita Buck, Chuck Holton, Rev. Louis Sibley and Cathy Simpson. Sometimes this board is referred to as the 51.42 Board, which is the chapter in the Wisconsin State Statute that established the board. We meet monthly at the Marcia P. Cogg Human Services Center under the administrative assistance of Rob Henken, Director of Health and Human Needs and Geri L. Lyday, Administrator of the Disabilities Services Division.

HAIL TO THE CHIEF!



The Vel Phillips Foundation

“A Woman of First” Vel Phillips

Vel Phillips, the first African-American Alderwoman on Milwaukee Common Council, the first Black woman Judge, the first African-American Secretary of State.

I was blessed as a child, teen, and adult to be in the company of **Mrs. Vel Phillips** and the late Mr. Dale Phillips, both Attorneys at Law. Our families grew in Milwaukee together through the Civil and Human Rights Movement. But the blessing is that our very own **Vel Phillips** is still advocating for equality, justice and liberty. Let us come together to celebrate this dynamic woman of first.

Join the community and myself as we put into motion the **“Vel Phillips Foundation.”** Be there Friday, April 7, 2006. For ticket and donation information please call 414-273-1321.

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THE STORY OF THE MENTALLY ILL . . .

“Not In My Backyard...Are We One?”

Recently Meg Kissinger of the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* did a series of articles on the plight of the mentally ill. Many people, myself included, felt badly regarding the living conditions of the mentally ill.

I as a Milwaukee County Supervisor find these conditions deplorable. Milwaukee County is committed to the mentally ill. I received a phone call from a constituent, oh they felt so bad, and I appreciate hearing from this constituent, but unfortunately this was the same constituent who told me a couple of years ago “not in my backyard.” You might say to me not in my backyard, but back in the day my culture, customs and family took care of our loved ones no matter what their disabilities were. Today, many people do not want to deal with the disabled, mentally ill or drug and alcohol addicted. They do not want zoning for group homes in their neighborhoods, many people support the not in my backyard syndrome.

The mental health system is not collapsing, in comparison to other large urban counties; we put a lot into services for the mentally ill. We are challenged; all levels of governments must work together. We know more has to be done. We have to commit ourselves to the diversity of our lives. We have to put our arms around those challenged by mental illness.

There is truly a shortage of low income housing in Milwaukee County, a person living on a check of \$700 is challenged to find safe and healthy housing and be able to afford food and utilities. More than 20 years ago, a legal decision was made to give mentally ill for due process – it did not open the doors of mental illness institutions. Deinstitutionalization has been occurring for decades with improvement of the psychiatric and the advancement of medication.

Yes, it is a challenge when we weigh in budgetary, but we will continue to work to make things better. We need to address the problem of all of us working for better housing, programs and services for the mild to severe mentally ill.

Three Point Plan

Attack Plan

- Get churches and Faith Based organizations involved in low income housing development
- Bring all bodies of government together to develop a working plan to solve the housing crisis
- Review what other urban communities have done to provide low income housing. We must attack this from all sides to come up with positive solutions to improve the quality of life for all people. If you have any recommendations please feel free to email me at ecoggsjones@milwcnty.com

“State of Emergency”

An all defense attacks on every level

- Federal
- State
- County
- City
- Mental Health Advocates
- Providers

New permanent housing plan from HUD

- Milwaukee County must have plan – suffer from a lack of permanent housing

Peace and blessings

